



August 31, 2026

INFORMATION SHEET FOR RESEARCH PARTICIPANTS

Collaborative Curriculum Development and Pedagogical Leadership at the University of Jyväskylä (Finnish acronym YOJO)**1. Invitation to participate in research**

We invite you to participate in a research project conducted at the University of Jyväskylä between 2026 and 2028. The project examines collaborative curriculum development and pedagogical leadership at the University of Jyväskylä. The study will follow the renewal of the degree programme portfolio and the curriculum development process for studies commencing in autumn 2028 across different levels of the university. The project investigates the leadership of curriculum renewal, focusing on the perspectives of leaders in different roles (Degree Programme Representatives, Deputy Heads of Department responsible for education, Vice Deans for education, senior academic and professional services leadership) as well as the perspectives of stakeholders in the key communities where these leaders have promoted goal-oriented activities through pedagogical leadership (the Education Council, education management groups, education development groups, teaching development groups, including student representatives). In addition, as the curriculum development process progresses, the study will monitor changes in the number of degree programmes and instances of boundary crossing between programmes and organisational units. From these, 2 to 4 cases will be selected for more detailed examination as case studies.

The study focuses on the following research question:

- How is curriculum renewal led at the University of Jyväskylä?

As curriculum development is carried out as a collaborative and participatory process across different levels of the university, data will be collected through focus group interviews composed of peers representing different leadership roles. The interviews are intended to be conducted with leaders at least twice during the degree programme portfolio renewal and curriculum development process. You will be contacted again the next time data is collected for this study if you do not withdraw your consent to participate. At that time, you will be asked again whether you wish to participate in the study. During autumn 2027 and/or spring 2028, focus group interviews will be conducted not only with leaders but also with the other stakeholder groups mentioned above. The study is expected to involve approximately 90–100 participants.

This information sheet describes the study and what participation in it means for you. The Privacy Notice provides information on the processing of your personal data.

Research activity you are invited to participate in

You are invited to participate in a focus group interview concerning the leadership of curriculum renewal.

2. Voluntary participation

Participation in this study is voluntary. You can refuse to participate in the study, withdraw from the study or your consent at any time, without stating a reason. This will have no negative consequences for you and choosing not to participate in the study will not place you at a disadvantage in your higher education institution or workplace.

If you decide to stop participating in the study or withdraw your consent, any personal data or other information collected to that point may still be used in the research if needed to ensure reliable results.

3. Progress of the study

The study will be conducted in two phases during 2026–2028. **In the first phase of the project** (autumn 2026), the focus will be on leadership and the perspectives of leaders. The themes of the focus group interviews will address both the renewal of the degree programme portfolio and the leadership of curriculum development. While the first phase focuses on participants' views and expectations, **the second phase of the project** (autumn 2027/spring 2028) will focus on their experiences. During the second phase, interviews will be conducted not only with leaders but also with members of the key communities where these leaders have promoted goal-oriented activities through pedagogical leadership.

The research data will consist of the following materials:

Interview data comprise semi-structured focus group interviews involving individuals who actively participate in curriculum development work. The interviews are expected to last approximately 60–90 minutes. A total of approximately 90–100 participants will take part in the interviews.

4. Possible benefits from the study

The study seeks to enhance understanding of the key aspects of leadership in collaborative curriculum development and to examine this process from different perspectives of pedagogical leadership. The objective is to develop a model that can support curriculum development at the University of Jyväskylä and in other contexts. The findings of the study will be published in scientific journals and presented at events within the higher education community.

5. Possible risks, harm, and inconvenience caused by the study as well as preparing for these

No significant risks, harms, or discomfort are expected to result from participation in the study for individual participants, work communities, or organizations. The study focuses on the renewal of the degree programme portfolio at the University of Jyväskylä, curriculum development processes and their leadership, as well as participants' personal experiences of these activities. Any potential burden is expected to be limited primarily to the time required for participation and to reflection on one's own work and experiences. However, it is possible that certain questions or topics may evoke mild discomfort or critical reflection concerning participants' own work, their organization, or collaborative practices.

Participation in the interviews is entirely voluntary, and participants have the right to withdraw from the study at any time without any consequences. Participants may also choose not to answer any individual questions.

The study does not collect or process special categories of personal data. The research data will be treated confidentially and pseudonymised, thereby reducing risks related to participant identification.

Should any concerns related to a participant's well-being or coping at work arise during the course of the study, participants may, where appropriate, be advised to contact the support services available within their organization, such as occupational health services. In addition, the research methods will be adapted as necessary to ensure that any risks, harms, or discomfort associated with participation remain as minimal as possible.

6. Insurance coverage for research participants

The University of Jyväskylä has insurance for its activities and research participants. The participants are covered for accidents, damages and injuries inflicted due to an external cause. The accident insurance is valid during measurements, measurement visits and trips directly related to them.

If research is conducted remotely, the insurance of the University of Jyväskylä covers only damage directly related to the research task which has occurred during the guided research task. The insurance does not cover accidents that occur during breaks. The insurance of the University of Jyväskylä is not valid in the case of research conducted remotely if a participant's municipality of residence is not in Finland.

7. Compensation for participation and reimbursement of study-related costs

Participants receive no payment or compensation for possible travel costs for this study.

8. Funding of the study

The study has no funding from outside the University of Jyväskylä.

9. Conflicts of Interests

The study and the researchers have no conflicts of interest that could affect the study's independence.

10. Informing about research results and research outcomes

No individual feedback reports will be provided to participants regarding their own "results." The research data are qualitative, and the analysis focuses on group-level phenomena. Nevertheless, the progress of the study and its main findings may be communicated through project seminars, workshops, or other forms of stakeholder engagement and interactive events.

The study will yield scientific publications, conference and seminar presentations, possible theses or dissertations, and teaching material. In addition, the project may generate publishable descriptions of research datasets and other open research materials that support the transparency and reuse of the research. The findings of the study may also be utilized in practical development work and, potentially, in broader societal discussions.

Research participants cannot be identified from publications or published results. All data will be analysed and reported in a manner that prevents the direct identification of individual participants. Personal data will be anonymised or pseudonymised prior to analysis and publication, and the findings will be presented in a generalized form.

If there is a risk of indirect identification due to the research context, a small sample size, or organization-specific analyses, this will be taken into careful consideration in the reporting of the results. In such cases,

details will be omitted or modified to ensure that individual participants cannot be identified from the publications.

In general, the identification of research participants in publications is not an objective of the study. If individuals with public roles (such as experts, leaders, or other key members of an organization) participate in the study, their potential identifiability will be assessed and managed on a case-by-case basis in line with research ethics principles.

Participants may be given the opportunity to provide separate consent to be identified in specific research publications or research materials where this is justified by the aims of the study. Any such identification will always be based on voluntary and informed consent obtained separately for that purpose. Participants will be provided with clear information about any potential risks associated with being identifiable in research publications.

11. The use of research data after the study is finished

After the study is finished and the results have been verified, the research data will be anonymised, which means that any information enabling personal identification is deleted. The data will be anonymised so that individual participants cannot be identified from the published or archived research data. Data containing direct identifiers, such as interview recordings, will be destroyed.

The anonymised research data will remain in the research team's possession and can be used for other scientific purposes, such as for further research, comparative analyses, and educational purposes, if this is possible in accordance with research ethics principles and data protection legislation.

In addition, the anonymised research data may be stored in JYU's JYX service or another comparable research data repository, from which the data may be made available for research and educational purposes upon request or in accordance with the terms and conditions of the repository. The availability of the data will be specified in more detail in the accompanying metadata and in the privacy notice.

12. Contact person for further information

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